

House File 470 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 470
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 260)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to subsidized guardianships.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM —

2 ELIGIBILITY. In determining eligibility requirements for
3 financial assistance to guardians under the subsidized
4 guardianship program, the department of human services shall
5 amend its administrative rules to provide the following:

6 1. The child who is the subject of the guardianship has
7 lived in continuous placement with a relative of the child
8 who is a licensed foster family home provider for a period
9 of at least six months prior to the subsidized guardianship
10 application.

11 2. The child who is the subject of the guardianship is
12 fourteen years of age or older. Guardianship assistance shall
13 end when the child turns eighteen years of age.

14 3. The child who is the subject of the guardianship has been
15 the subject of a child abuse or family assessment report and
16 has been in the custody of the department of human services.

17 Sec. 2. TITLE IV-E GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE STATE PLAN
18 AMENDMENT — SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM. The department
19 of human services shall submit a Title IV-E guardianship
20 assistance state plan amendment to the United States department
21 of health and human services to allow Title IV-E funding to be
22 used for a subsidized guardianship program to enable children
23 in the care of grandparents and other relatives to exit state
24 care and be placed in permanent homes.

25 EXPLANATION

26 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
27 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

28 This bill requires the department of human services to amend
29 its administrative rules contained in 441 IAC ch. 204 relating
30 to eligibility requirements for guardians under the subsidized
31 guardianship program. The bill requires the child who is
32 the subject of a guardianship to have lived in continuous
33 placement with a relative of the child who is a licensed foster
34 family home provider for at least six months prior to the
35 guardianship. The child who is the subject of the guardianship

1 is required to be 14 years of age or older and guardianship
2 assistance must end when the child turns 18 years of age. The
3 child must have been the subject of a child abuse or family
4 assessment report and in the custody of the department of human
5 services.

6 The bill requires the department of human services to
7 submit a Title IV-E guardianship assistance state plan
8 amendment to the United States department of health and human
9 services to allow Title IV-E funding through the federal
10 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act
11 of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-351) to be used for a subsidized
12 guardianship program to enable children to remain in the care
13 of grandparents and other relatives to avoid placement in state
14 care.